THE CASE OF THE City of London.

1. THE City of *London* is a Body Politick by Preſcription, and many Charters, Confirmed by *Magna Charta*, and many Acts of Parliament, whereby it hath many Powers and Privileges, which belong to the Freemen only of the Body, Excluſive to all others.

2. The chief and higheſt Privilege of the ſaid City, or Body Corporate, and of all the Freemen thereof, is a Power to make Bye-Laws for their own better Government and Advantage; and whilſt the Freemen exceeded not the numbers that could meet and conſult together, they were Aſſembled, and made ſuch Laws for themſelves as they thought fit.

3. When the Freemen were too numerous to Conſult in one Aſſembly, after various ways practiſed to have themſelves repreſented in Councils about their good Government: It was at laſt agreed, (ſome Hundreds of Years ſince) That a competent number of the Freemen ſhould be Yearly Choſen at the Wardmotes, to repreſent in Council the whole Body of the Commonalty of the City, and to act and conſent for them in making their Bye-Laws, and ordering all the greateſt concerns of the City; and thoſe Freemen ſo Choſen by all the reſpective Wards, have had, and ſtill have the name of the *Common-Council of the City*, who, together with the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, make up the Court of the greateſt Authority, under the name of the *Mayor, Citizens, and Commonalty of the City of* LONDON.

4. There are many Inhabitants within the ſeveral Wards, who are not Freemen of the City, or Members of the ſaid Body, who are nevertheleſs Bound (as all Reſidents are) to come to the reſpective Wardmotes, wherein the ſaid Members for the *Common-Council* are yearly Choſen; and all thoſe Inhabitants, though not Free of the City, if they pay Scot and bear Lot, have always had Voices in the Choice of the *Conſtables*, *Queſt-men* and *Scavengers* for their Ward, and may be Choſen to thoſe Offices which concerns equally all the Inhabitants in the reſpective Wards, as they are Inhabitants of thoſe Precincts, though no Members of the Body Politick of the City.

But the ſaid Inhabitants that are not of the Body of the City, do now claim to have Voices in the Election of the Freemen, that are to repreſent the whole Body Corporate of the City in *Common-Council*, becauſe they are Choſen at the Ward-mote, to which ſuch Inhabitants are ſummoned, though they do not pretend that they are capable to be Choſen; and upon the like ground the ſaid Inhabitants alſo claim to have Voices in the Election of the *Aldermen* of the ſaid City, or Body Corporate.

Query 1. Whether by the Charters Incorporating the City, the Inhabitants within the Wards, not being Members or Free-men of the City, have any Right to give their Voices in the Election of the *Aldermen* or *Common-Council-men* of the ſame?

Query 2. Whether the Permiſſion of ſuch Inhabitants as are not Free of the City, and by Negligence, Connivance, or otherwiſe, to have given their Voices in ſome ſuch Election at the Ward-motes, do give them any Right or juſt Claim to the Privilege of Freemen in the Choice of the *Aldermen* and *Common-Council-men* of the Body Corporate of the City?